

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCCT-01 AID-05 OMB-01 /072 W

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P 231300Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3518

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON PRIORITY

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN PRIORITY

COMIDEASTFOR PRIORITY

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA PRIORITY

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI PRIORITY

CNO WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0717

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJECT: INSURGENTS INTENSIFY ACTIVITIES IN ASMARA AREA

REF: A. USDAO ADDIS 221345Z AUG 75 IR 6830 0430 75

B. ASMARA 0714

1. FRONT (ELF/PLF) INSURGENTS INTENSIFIED THEIR ACTIVITIES IN ASMARA AREA BY INITIATING THREE INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN HEIGHTENED TENSION AND UNCERTAINTY IN ASMARA..

2. ON EVENING OF AUGUST 19, INSURGENTS LAUNCHED SPORADIC ATTACKS WITH SMALL ARMS IN MILITARY AIRFIELD WHICH, REPORTEDLY, RECEIVED FIVE ROCKETS, ON OF WHICH SLIGHTLY DAMAGED WING OF F-86. ATTACK WAS BRIEF AND DAMAGE WAS APPARENTLY NEGLIGIBLE.

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3. ON WEDNESDAY (AUG. 20), FRONT FORCES ATTACKED CONVOY ON ASMARA-MASSAWA ROAD, REPORTEDLY KILLING 15 EPMG TROOPS WHILE LOSING 5 KIAS. WHILE THIS IS FIRST ATTACK ON VULNERABLE ASMARA-MASSAWA ROAD IN SEVERAL MONTHS, FRONT UNIT WAS UNABLE PREVENT CONVOY FROM CONTINUING TO MASSAWA. CONVOY ACTIVITY IS CONTINUING DESPITE INCREASED RISKS.

4. ON AUG. 23, TWO AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF DOD-CONTRACTOR CISCO WERE KILLED IN EXPLOSION OF LAND MINE UNDER THEIR TRUCK RETURNING FROM KAGNEW TRANSMITTER SIRE (TRACT DELTA) (ASMARA 714). WHILE PRINCIPAL TRAFFIC ON ROAD WHERE MINE WAS PLACED INCLUDES WORKERS AT TRACT DELTA AS WELL AS WORKERS AND EPMG ESCORT AT MUNICIPAL PUMPING STATION FURTHER DOWN ROAD, PLACEMENT OF MINE BETWEEN TRACT DELTA AND MAIN PAVED ROAD TO SOUTH MAY INDICATE FRONT WAS NOT NOW CONCERNED ABOUT JEOPARDIZING SAFETY OF AMERICAN WORKERS AT TRANSMITTER SITE.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THESE THREE INCIDENTS INDICATE CERTAIN INTENSIFICATION OF FRONT ACTIVITY, BECAUSE OF RANDOM NATURE AND LACK OF EFFECTIVENESS OF ATTACKS IT STILL NOT CLEAR WHETHER THESE ACTIONS REPRESENT ANYTHING MORE THAN FLEXING OF INSURGENT MUSCLES.
SHERRY

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Message Attributes

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